

Building a Coalition for Environmental Justice and Clean Energy

SUSTAIN YOUR PARTNERSHIPS

This case study focuses on building a multi-year, cross-sector coalition of non-profit advocacy organizations working together on climate, environmental, and energy justice, fostering bipartisan support for clean energy policies.

Contributed by:

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I was charged with coordinating and mobilizing non-profit advocacy organizations working in the environmental justice and clean energy sectors. I also strategized to resolve internal conflicts to repair relationships so that organizations could work together. Towards that end, I was able to get funding increased to open the opportunity for others to take on the role. The work went to another woman in her early 30s who was of Afro-Latina descent.

The Georgia SFCI (State to Federal Climate Initiative) is now a strong coalition with more clean energy bills being presented and with support from Republican committee members. The SCFI is a power-building initiative funded by the Energy Foundation. Georgia was identified as a priority state, and the Foundation came up with this framework to help states connect more easily to resources coming down for the clean energy transition. My role is as a consultant (I serve as the Georgia State Director - all the directors are consultants) and thought - partner, helping the groups connect to support a just and clean energy transition.

Five organizations co-lead and manage this coalition and the groups are funded to do this collective leadership of the group. I also use a participatory design framework for writing the annual strategic plan - the plan encompasses the whole state of Georgia and the activities of advocates for the coming year. Coalition groups offer their perspective and input into this deck. The state plan is intended to map out what resources are needed to carry out the ambitious agenda of the coalition.

LESSON LEARNED

“We can all work together, across the aisle, whether it's man or woman, conservative or liberal. It's important for us to share space to be reminded that we're all human.”

Georgia Conservation Voters are the coalition lead; they hire a coalition manager who is assigned to this specific work of the Georgia SFCI. The coalition includes Georgia Wand, the Environment Georgia Research and Policy Center, Southface, and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL). GIPL has a specific role; they intervene in every Public Service Commission (PSC) docket. Intervention occurs along a specific calendar, and advocates can present testimony, exhibits, and expert research through which they present a case for their priorities. This process places the investor-owned utility in a pressure test. Intervention happens in the first 6 months of the year; the second 6 months are when the utility (Georgia Power) makes its case for rate changes. The Energy Foundation funds an organization to attend to every docket that is put forth by the PSC.

In parallel, Southface is writing a PSC Engagement Plan; they are also conducting Integrated Resource Plan and Rate Case Engagement Workshops, which have been extremely popular and make a case for a thirst for engagement around these issues: there were 140 people at the first workshop in September.

Principles in Action

- » *G1 - Sustained Relationships*: Continue to show up: responsibilities and relationships should not end just because a project does. Maintain communication and connection to partners in between projects and funding cycles so as to build long-term, trusting relationships.

This was the creation and development of a multi-year ongoing collaboration to create a partnership that works on climate justice, environmental justice, energy justice, and clean energy policies.

Related Resources:

- [Georgia Interfaith Power & Light: Connecting Faith, Community & Planet](#)